

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 097523
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUQMDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 8391

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097523

EXDIS

FOL RPT DAKAR 2832 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, TEL AVIV, BEIRUT,
BONN, JERUSALEM, JCS WASHDC, SECDEF WASHDC, DIA WASHDC &
HQUSAF WASHDC DTD 15 APR 78

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 2832

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PBOR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON; UN REQUEST FOR US TO AIRLIFT SENEGALESE

REF: STATE 096950

1. SENEGALESE PRIME MINISTER HAD MADE POLITICAL DECISION TO
ALLOW SENEGALESE UNIFIL CONTINGENT TO BE AIRLIFTED TO BEN
GURION AIRPORT IN ISRAEL.

2. IN TERMS OF READINESS TO DEPART, SITUATION NOT AS
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PAGE 02 STATE 097523

OPTIMISTIC AS WE HAD THOUGHT EARLIER. COMMANDING OFFICER OF
SENEGALESE CONTINGENT (SENEGAL'S COMMANDO BN.) CURRENTLY
IN BEIRUT WORKING OUT ARRIVAL AND DEPLOYMENT SCENARIO. ON
BASIS OF HIS REPORTS, SENEGALESE HAVE BEEN PLANNING ON ARRIVAL
IN BEIRUT. IN ADDITION, SENEGALESE MILITARY HAS BEEN UNDER
HANDICAP IN PREPARATIONS DUE TO LACK OF HARD INFORMATION
ON REQUIRED EQUIPMENT. LATEST INFO RECEIVED BY SENEGALESE

IS THAT THEY ARE TO TAKE ARMORED CARS AND ARTILLERY,
WHICH WOULD MAKE LIFT HEAVIER THAN ANTICIPATED EARLIER.
IN THIS CONTEXT, INFORMATION FROM US SECRETARIAT NEW YORK
AND BEIRUT HAS BEEN CONTRADICTORY AS WELL AS INADEQUATE.
SO SENEGALESE HIGH COMMAND REALLY DOES NOT FEEL IT COULD
GEAR UP FULL MOVE UNTIL CONTINGENT COMMANDER RETURNS FROM
BEIRUT WITHIN NEXT 48 HOURS AND PROVIDES FINAL REPORT
ON EQUIPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS. IN VIEW URGENCY AS
CONVEYED BY USG, MILITARY INDICATE THEY COULD HAVE 200
MAN ADVANCE ELEMENT READY TO GO BY WEDNESDAY. REMAINDER
WOULD BE READY BY 26 OR 27 APRIL.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, QUESTION ABOUT AIRLIFT AVAILABILITY
STILL REMAINS. WILL FRG RESPOND POSITIVELY TO UN REQUEST
FOR AIRLIFT TOWARD END OF APRIL. IF NOT, WILL USG BE WILLING
TO SUPPLY?

4. QUESTION ABOUT PASSOVER HOLIDAY. ECONOMIST DIARY FOR
1978 SAYS FIRST DAY OF PASSOVER IS SATURDAY APRIL 22. THIS
WOULD INDICATE BEGINNING OF HOLIDAY IS SUNDOWN FRIDAY APRIL
21, AND NOT APRIL 20 CITED IN REFTEL. DO WE HAVE AN
EXTRA 24 HOURS TO PLAY WITH IF WE WANT TO TAKE UP SENEGALESE
OFFER TO SEND 200 MAN ADVANCE CONTINGENT THIS COMING WEEK?
COHEN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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